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7 DEC 68 01 06Z

OUT 66550

P 070053Z DEC 68
FM NPIC WASHDC
TO AIG 7840
BT

SECRET [] CITE NPIC 5197

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REF A: NPIC 5123, DTG 270231Z, NOVEMBER 1968.

REF B: NPIC BRIEFING BOARD M-5178, 6 DECEMBER 1968

SCAN BY NPIC OF GIANT DRAGON MISSION []

25X1

REVEALS CONTINUED CONSTRUCTION ON THE NEW ROAD EXTENDING SOUTH FROM CHINA, THROUGH BAN BOTENE, LAOS (REFS A AND B).

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TRUCKS AND OTHER CONSTRUCTION VEHICLES CAN NOW PROCEED SOUTH 22 NM ALONG THE NEW ROAD TO THE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED CONSTRUCTION TERMINUS AT 20-55-43N 101-45-10E (UTM QD862165). THE OPERATIONAL SEGMENT OF THE ROAD HAS BEN EXTENDED AN ADDITIONAL 9 NM IN ONLY 7 DAYS. BEYOND THIS POINT, THE PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED CLEARING OPERATION APPEARS UNCHANGED.

ASSOCIATED ACTIVITY ALONG THE ROUTE INCLUDES 57 NEWLY OBSERVED BUILDINGS RAISING THE TOTAL TO AT LEAST 123 STRUCTURES COMPRISING AT LEAST 11 FACILITIES. A DECK-TYPE BRIDGE HAS BEN CONSTRUCTED AT QD748324.

THIRTY FOUR TRUCKS AND FIVE VEHICLES/PIECES OF EQUIPMENT ARE OBSERVED ALONG THE NEW ROUTE AND APPROXIMATELY 25 VEHICLES ARE OBSERVED ON ROUTE 412 IN CHINA BETWEEN THE BORDER AND THE JUNCTION OF ROUTE 412 AND 4023.

MAP REF: AMS SERIES L7015 SHEETS 5350 I, IV 5351 III 1ST ED.

GP-1

SECRET []

END OF MESSAGE

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